

On page 26 at line 20, please insert --and-- between "filtered," and "concentrated".

On page 26, at line 30, please substitute --PRIMAR-- for "primar".

On page 27 at line 24, please substitute --PRIMAR-- for "primar".

On page 28 at line 6 and again at line 20, please substitute --PRIMAR-- for "primar".

On page 29 at line 2, please substitute --PRIMAR-- for "primar".

In the claims:

Please amend the following claims as indicated below:

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6. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the solvent in step (c) is selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, benzonitrile, o-, - or p-xylene, mesitylene, [or] and diphenyl ether.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the solvent in step (c) is selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene [or] and o-, -, [or] and p-xylene.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein the solvent in step (c) is chlorobenzene or [benzotrifluoride] benzotrifluoride.

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11. The method of claim 1 wherein the activated phosphorus compound is selected from the group consisting of

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 an activated mononucleotide, an activated dinucleotide, [or]
and an activated polynucleotide.

13. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the
 [protetcing] protecting group of the 5'-O-protected
 nucleoside and the 5'-protected activated phosphite compound
 is independently selected from the group consisting of
 trityl, monomethoxy trityl, dimethoxytrityl,
 trimethoxytrityl, 2-chlorotrityl, 1,1-dianisyl-2,2,2-
~~trichloroethyl~~ trichloroethyl [DATE] (DATE), 4,4',4''-
~~tris(benzoyloxyphenyl)methyl~~ [TBTr] (TBTr) ,
 9-phenylxanthine-9-yl (Pixyl) [or] and
 9-(p-methoxyphenyl)xanthine-9-yl (MOX).

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 14. (Amended) The method of claim 13 wherein the
 [protetcing] protecting group of the 5'-O-protected
 nucleoside and the 5'-protected activated phosphite compound
 is independently selected from the group consisting of
 trityl, monomethoxy trityl, dimethoxy trityl,
 9-phenylxanthine-9-yl (Pixyl) [or] and
 9-(p-methoxyphenyl)xanthine-9-yl.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein the
 [protetcing] protecting group of the 5'-O-protected
 nucleoside and the 5'-protected activated phosphite compound
 is dimethoxytrityl.

16. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the
 phosphorus-linked oligomer is selected from the group

consisting of a phosphodiester, a phosphorothioate phosphorodithioate, [or] and a H-phosphonate oligonucleotide.

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17. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the protic acid is selected from the group consisting of formic acid, acetic acid, chloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, trifluoroacetic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, toluenesulfonic acid, [or] and phenylphosphoric acid.

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20. (Amended) The method of claim 19 wherein the alcohol additive to the solvent in step (c) is selected from the group consisting of from 0% to about 30% methanol, ethanol, 2-propanol, t-butyl alcohol, t-amyl alcohol, [benzyl lcohol] benzyl alcohol, [or] 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol, [or a mixture] and mixtures thereof.

23. (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the solvent in step (c) is selected from the group consisting of an aromatic solvent, an alkyl aromatic solvent, [or] and an aromatic ether.

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24. (Amended) The method of claim 23 wherein the solvent in step (c) ~~is selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene, benzonitrile, o-, - or p-xylene, mesitylene, [or] and diphenyl ether.~~

25. (Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the solvent in step (c) is selected from the group consisting of benzene, toluene [or] and o-, - [or] and p-xylene.

28. (Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein the solvent in step (c) is chlorobenzene or [benzotrifluoride] benzotrifluoride.

29. (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the activated phosphite compound is selected from the group consisting of a mononucleotide phosphoramidite, a dinucleotide phosphoramidite, [or] and a polynucleotide phosphoramidite.

30. (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the [protetcing] protecting group of the 5'-O-protected nucleoside and the 5'-protected activated phosphite compound is independently selected from the group consisting of trityl, monomethoxy trityl, dimethoxytrityl, trimethoxytrityl, 2-chlorotrityl, 1,1-dianisyl-2,2,2-trichloroethyl, triethoxyethyl [DATE] (DATE), 4,4',4''-tris(benzoyloxyphenyl)methyl [TBTr] (TBTr), 9-phenylxanthine-9-yl (Pixyl) [or] and 9-(p-methoxyphenyl)xanthine-9-yl (MOX).

31. (Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein the [protetcing] protecting group of the 5'-O-protected nucleoside and the 5'-protected activated phosphite compound

is independently selected from the group consisting of trityl, monomethoxy trityl, dimethoxy trityl, 9-phenylxanthine-9-yl (Pixyl) [or] and 9-(p-methoxyphenyl)xanthine-9-yl.

32. (Amended) The method of claim 31 wherein the [protetcing] protecting group of the 5'-O-protected nucleoside and the 5'-protected activated phosphite compound is dimethoxytrityl.

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33. (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the phosphorus-linked oligomer is selected from the group consisting of a phosphodiester, phosphorothioate [or] and a phosphorodithioate oligonucleotide.

34. (Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the protic acid is selected from the group consisting of formic acid, acetic acid, chloroacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid, trifluoroacetic acid, benzenesulfonic acid, toluenesulfonic acid, [or] and phenylphosphoric acid.

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37. (Amended) The method of claim 36 wherein the alcohol additive to the solvent in step (c) is selected from the group consisting of from 0% to about 30% methanol, ethanol, 2-propanol, t-butyl alcohol, t-amyl alcohol, [benzyl lcohol] benzyl alcohol, [or] 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol, [or a mixture] and mixtures thereof.